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1. When I returned to Hungary in 1950, after spending five years in the USSR as a PW, I was immediately arrested by the AVH, along with eight thousand other returning PWs. The AVH claimed that the group of PWs returning in 1950 had not been released with the other Hungarian prisoners by the Soviets in 1948 because of our former political affiliations. The AVH, because of my father's former high position in the Hungarian government, stated that it was necessary that I be thoroughly investigated before I could be released. During the investigative period, I was assigned on work details as a political prisoner on several new projects. I was sent in July 1951, with a large group of other political prisoners, to work as a laborer on the Kecskemet Army Kaserne at Korhankoz. Our group assisted in the construction of seven two-story barracks to house a Soviet tank division. Each bar rack was 240 feet long and 50 feet wide. The barracks were completed in October 1951; I was sent to work on the new Kazincbarcika chemical plant until August 1952 when I was brought to trial.
2. The AVH informed me that if I signed a confession to my political crimes, they would recommend a short prison term for me. They admitted that I had been thoroughly investigated and they were unable to uncover any evidence of political activity against the Hungarian government. However, they felt that because of my father's former position, I could not be released. I would not agree to sign the confession although I was beaten twice during the next three weeks before I was brought to trial. I was charged with sympathizing with the foreign policy of the Hungarian government prior to World War II, and sentenced to five years imprisonment
3. I was taken to Orszagos Borton (National Prison for Political Prisoners) at 13 Kozma Street, Budapest X to serve my sentence. This prison, formerly known as Gyustofog haz Kobanya (Collective Prison of Kobanya), was constructed in 1896, remodeled several times after World War I, and modernized after World War II when toilet facilities were installed. This prison is surrounded by a barbed wire fence, approximately 15 feet high. There are 12 guard towers surrounding the prison, all manned by members of the AVH. There are only two entrances and two exits. One in front is for prison personnel, visitors, etc. The one in

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the rear is for trucks and automobiles.

4. The prison consists of a four story bank of prison cells, with a left and right wing in the form of a Y. There is a catwalk under the bank of cells where the guards can watch the prisoners. These two wings are in the center of the prison. In front of the wings are the button plant, drafting room, hospital, special prison section, the dining room for the guards, a visitors room, sleeping quarters and theater for the guards. To the rear of the two wings are the laundry, cabinet shop, repair workshop, barber room, warehouse, ward for mental cases, and bath house. On file is a memory sketch of the prison - classified CONFIDENTIAL. There were 1200 prisoners in the prison when I was there, and 200 guards.
5. When I was first taken to the prison, I was assigned to a section known as the special prison. It was used for special political prisoners, including women, who were considered sufficiently important to isolate from the other prisoners. Some of the special prisoners when I was there included: Arpad Szakasits, Socialist Party leader and his wife; Anna Kethly, former minister of the Socialist Party; and Mrs Laszlo Rajk, head of the Magyar Nok Demokratikus Szovetsége (Hungarian Women's Democratic Federation). All political prisoners condemned to death are also imprisoned here. Szakasits has been released and turned informer against his party. Mrs Rajk was released in 1955, and was active in the revolution in November 1956.
6. After three weeks in the special prison, I was moved to the general section of the prison with the other political prisoners. I was informed by the prison authorities that I would be given a number, and listed in their records under my mother's maiden name. I was also warned against telling other prisoners my name. Even the guards did not learn my true identity until I had been in the prison about two years. After being indoctrinated, I was informed that I could work in one of the prison shops and earn income to purchase extra rations. I was given a choice of the cabinet shop, button shop, laundry, general repair and maintenance shop, the engineering or drafting department, or working with the bricklayers or masons in general repair work of the prison. That I was given a preference was surprising, because many of the prisoners were not permitted to leave their cells. I knew of several instances where prisoners remained in their cells for as long as 18 months without being able to get out. I was paid at the rate of 50 forints/mo; others received as much as 250 forints/mo, and engineers were paid 500 forints/mo. The extra money was used to purchase fruits, smoked bacon and gum.
7. Prison routine was extremely monotonous. We were wakened at 0700 hours, breakfast of coffee and bread at 0730 in our cells, then assigned to our work. Lunch, consisting of soup and a vegetable, was at noon. Dinner was at 1800 hours and consisted of cooked vegetables and a potato. For the first several years of my imprisonment I was unable to sleep at night due to the screams of the prisoners in solitary confinement. The commander of the prison in 1952 was Bankuti, a sadist of the first order. He seemed to delight in cruelty and punishment. If a prisoner neglected to salute a guard, he was placed in solitary confinement. His wrists were shackled to his ankles in a sitting position for as long as 18 hours at a time. On 3 Jul 52, a young Yugoslav prisoner managed to escape by riding under the rear of a coal truck. It so infuriated Bankuti that he ordered the guards to open all the cells and beat each prisoner. In December 1952, Bankuti beat one of the prisoners to death, and because the Hungarian officials felt he had exceeded his authority, imprisoned him for 1 1/2 years. He was succeeded by Komar, who remained until April 1953. Col Toth succeeded Komar, and when Jihanyi was head of the prison. The torture at the prison was curtailed in May 1953, although other moderate disciplinary measures, primarily solitary confinement, were used. Although the young Yugoslav escaped, he was the only one successful in the period I was imprisoned. Several others dug a tunnel

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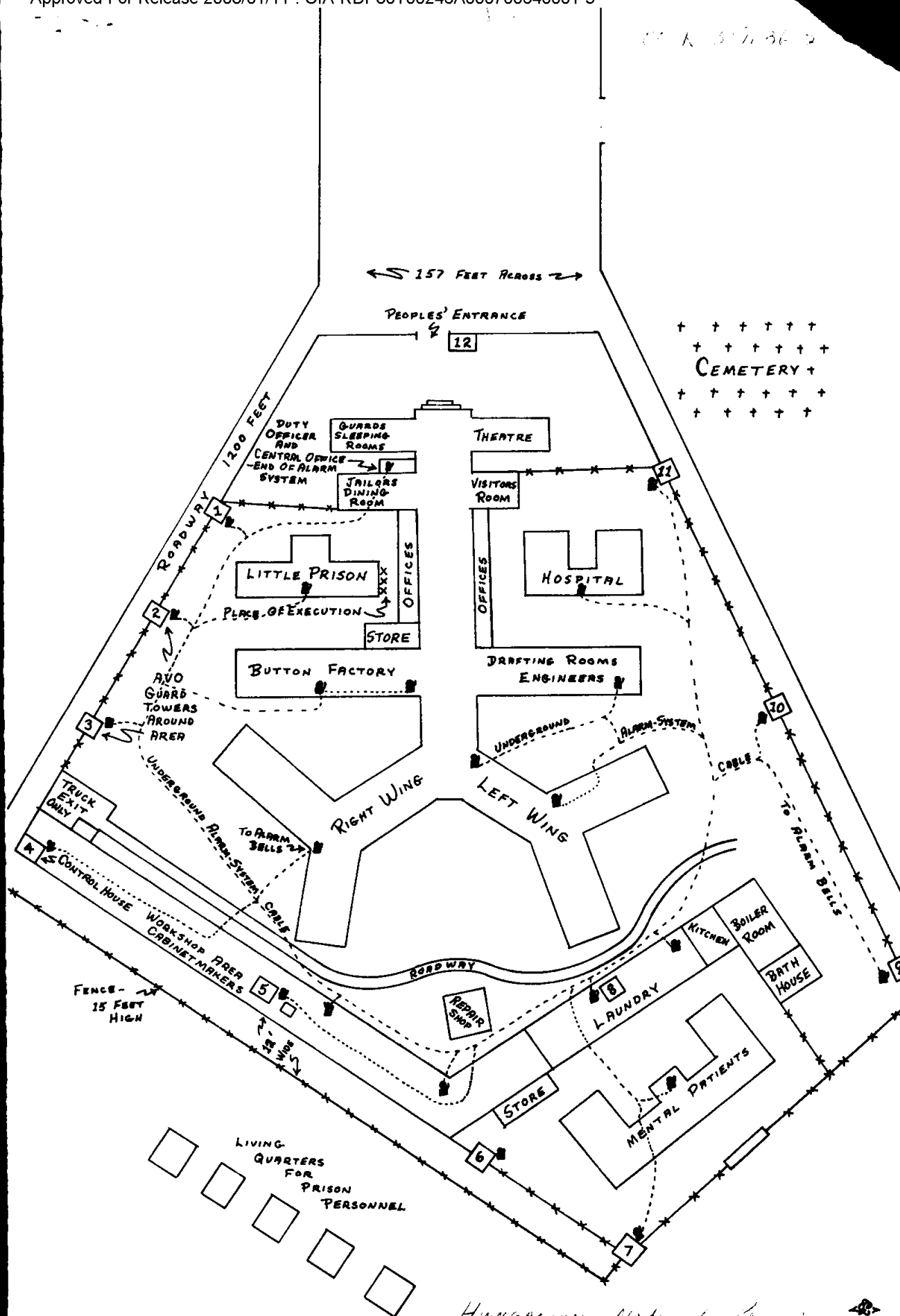
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